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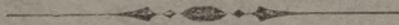
REPORT

TO THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

FRENCH RELIEF FUND.



BOSTON :

ALFRED MUDGE & SON, PRINTERS, 34 SCHOOL STREET.

1872.

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The Executive Committee of the FRENCH RELIEF
FUND submit the accompanying papers to the Sub-
scribers.

Gift
F. W. Putnam.
5/20/25

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REPORT.

To Messrs. JOHN M. FORBES, H. H. HUNNEWELL, WM. ENDICOTT, JR., MARTIN BRIMMER, AVERY PLUMER, R. B. FORBES, JOHN L. GARDNER,	} <i>Executive Committee of the French Relief Fund.</i>
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GENTLEMEN: In obedience to your letter of instructions of February 16th, 1871, Mr. Francis Brooks and myself left New York by the City of Washington, February 19th, and reached London March 3d. We there saw many persons who had already had experience in distributing aid in France. The Committee of the Society of Friends, meeting daily at their offices in Houndsditch, received us with the greatest kindness. They were in constant receipt of advices from their agents in France, and the information obtained through them was of the greatest value.

On the 9th of March we left London for Paris, in company with Mr. Paul Forbes. The party of the Commune having overthrown the Government on the 18th, we left Paris for Hayre on the 20th, where

we spent three days, and returned to London to await the arrival of the Worcester, then fully due.

The condition of affairs in France was now greatly changed from what it was when the cargo of the Worcester was bought. These changes were such as could not have been foreseen. When we left New York, peace between France and Germany had not been concluded. There was a truce between the two powers. Negotiations were going on, and it had been necessary for the Executive Committee to provide us with letters of recommendation to the German authorities to meet the probability of their being still in possession of the country on our arrival.

But when the Worcester reached Plymouth, peace was made. The German army had entered Paris in triumph. Gambetta's government had been succeeded by that of Mons. Thiers. The Commune had taken possession of Paris; and while, according to the terms of the Treaty of Peace, the German armies were slowly leaving France, and the French soldiers, released from prison, were slowly returning, a new siege of Paris had begun, and half the circuit, once held by the German batteries, was occupied by French guns directed against the insurgent city.

In this state of affairs your Commissioners were very reluctantly led to the opinion that the cargo of the Worcester, consisting chiefly of flour in barrels, with mess beef, pork, and other bulky provisions, could not be successfully distributed in the districts where it was needed; partly because of the general confusion arising from the political situation, and partly because of the great interruption of railroad and other inland transportation. Large quantities of merchandise were lying at the stations, waiting transportation which the railways were unable to furnish, their capacity for moving goods having been greatly impaired by the war, and the means still at their command being almost wholly absorbed by the Government. Many railroad bridges had been destroyed, and the navigation of the rivers was interrupted by their ruins, almost as completely as was the traffic of the railroads by their destruction. About fifteen thousand freight cars had been carried away by the Germans, or otherwise lost during the war. The Government was bringing home from Germany about three thousand prisoners per day, who were to be distributed all over France. Meanwhile, an army was to be organized at Versailles, to operate against the insurgents at Paris. Not only the troops, but the whole material of war,

was to be brought from the arsenals and forts on the coast and the frontier, by railways, all of which centred at Paris, and to be delivered, not at the railway centre, but at a point twelve miles from that centre, lying upon one of the radiating lines. The detour necessary to reach this point was, in many cases, enormous.

Mr. Arthur Albright, of Birmingham, who had spent two months in France, distributing seeds furnished by the Society of Friends, wrote to express his opinion that the distribution of the cargo would be practically impossible. "The difficulty of distributing grain to perhaps one thousand cultivators enables me to understand in some measure what would be your difficulty in bringing one cargo of food to one hundred thousand mouths."

Mr. Moran, *Chargé d'Affaires* at London, and Chairman of the London Committee of the New York French Relief Fund, wrote April 14th: "I am satisfied that in the present disorganized state of railway communication, to say nothing of the political chaos which exists pretty much throughout the nation, it would cost almost as much to distribute the Worcester's cargo as it is worth."

But perhaps no better proof can be given of the want of transportation in France at this time, and

even later, than the fact that in July a bill passed the Assembly throwing the coasting trade of France open to vessels of all nations from the 1st of August to the 1st of November.

In answer to despatches advising you of this difficulty of transportation, we received from you by cable on the 29th of March, authority to sell the cargo of the Worcester and to use the proceeds in money.

The Worcester having arrived at Plymouth on the 4th of April, we met Capt. Whiting there, but in consequence of delay at Southampton, where the ship put in to repair her boilers, she did not reach London till the 22d. To my very great regret, Mr. Brooks was obliged to leave London on the 14th, to return home.

The cargo was placed in the hands of Messrs. Harris Bros. & Co. for sale, proceeds to be paid over to Messrs. Baring Bros. & Co., and on the 25th of April I left London, reaching Rouen that night and Lisieux the next day, where I joined Mr. Cordier, Agent of the house of Russell & Co., who went with me to Tours on the 27th.

At Tours, Mr. Stephen S. Lee of Baltimore had been living for two years with his family. During the war he had acted as an agent for the distribution of

hospital supplies furnished by the "Sick and Wounded Fund" (so called) of London. In this service his zeal, tact, and business-like method had been warmly appreciated both by the officers of the fund and those who had been aided by it. As an American he was glad of an opportunity of acting with and for his countrymen, and gave to the object in which I was engaged, not only all the aid which his experience and local knowledge of men and things afforded, but his warmest sympathy and good-will.

Calling first on the Protestant pastor at Tours, we learned from him that his society was small and thrifty, and would not need aid.

On the 29th we spent the day at the Colony of Mettray, four miles from Tours, in company with Monsieur Demetz the director. This establishment is what we should call a Farm School for boys sent there by order of the Courts, and was the first of its kind ever founded. When in London my attention had been called by gentlemen of the Committee of Friends, to the appeal for aid that Monsieur Demetz was then making in England. The statement was, that though their establishment had not suffered directly from the war, yet that in consequence of the war, their income from outside sources was wholly cut off, and that their own power of pro-

ductive industry was almost destroyed by the loss of two hundred of their oldest and strongest boys, who had gone into the army. Unless means could be raised to support the establishment for a year, it would be necessary to break it up, and dismiss the seven hundred boys who were there.

It was estimated that £2,500 would support them for a year. Monsieur Demetz was then in London, and after the best examination I could give the subject, it seemed to me a case which the subscribers to the Fund would wish to aid. One thousand pounds had already been subscribed in England, partly by gentlemen whom I knew, and in whose judgment I had confidence. Monsieur Demetz said that if he could secure £2,000, he should feel quite safe, and I therefore agreed, that if five hundred pounds could be raised by the 15th of May, I would add five hundred pounds more, and complete the sum of £2,000.

From all that we saw at Mettray and all that I learned afterwards, I was satisfied that this money was well spent.

The citizens of Worcester had sent to the Fund the sum of £508. 18s. 2d. This was paid over to the treasurer of the Colony, in their name, which is inscribed among those of the benefactors of the Colony, upon a tablet placed in the chapel.

At Tours, was a somewhat similar establishment for girls, called the Refuge, where three hundred were maintained. It was supported chiefly by the needle-work of the girls, the work being sent from Paris. But since the siege of Paris by the Prussians, in the previous September, this source of income had been cut off, and they were reduced to great straits. For some months they had tasted no meat, living upon bread; and for the last few weeks, finding bread too expensive, they had lived upon rice. But this, even, was failing them, and the establishment was about to be broken up. They received five thousand francs with great gratitude, and were confident that it would enable them to tide over their worst troubles. With the reopening of Paris they would soon go on again as before.

Tours had been selected as a central point of the district north of the Loire, between Orleans and Le Mans, which had been the scene of severe fighting during the previous autumn and winter. In order to see something of the smaller towns and villages of this district, Mr. Lee, Mr. Cordier, and myself went to Vendôme, Chateaudun, and St. Calais, spending some time in each place and seeing something of the country between. On the whole, we were surprised to find so few signs of suffering, except at

Chateaudun, where nearly three hundred houses had been destroyed by the Prussians. There was a great want of milch cows, and there could have been no better charity than to help a poor family which had lost their single cow to replace it. This might have been done from Spain, but there was some scarcity of fodder, and the cattle disease was still rife, so that it seemed unwise to attempt it. Mr. Albright of Birmingham, who had been through the country distributing seed, said that he thought there was, at that time, more suffering in the cities than in the country. So far as we could judge, this was the case, and this opinion was afterwards confirmed by the Archbishop of Tours on his return from a journey through the rural districts of his diocese.

The best way of relieving the distress in Tours, seemed to be through the various charitable organizations of the place, which were well established and managed by some of the best people of the city. In this way we were able to reach all classes of the poor, and to avail ourselves of the research and experience of persons of great benevolence, who had made the distribution of charity their study. In general we found that the war had at once diminished the resources of the charitable societies and increased the demands upon them. After careful inquiry through

Mr. and Mrs. Lee, aid was given to the following societies.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, for the relief of the	
poor at their homes	5,000 francs.
Orphan Asylum of the Abbé Viridier	2,500 “
L'Œuvre de la Maternité, in aid of poor women	
lying in	2,000 “
Les pauvres malades	2,000 “
Les petites Sœurs des Pauvres, taking care of 130	
old men	2,000 “
L'Œuvre des Jeunes Economes, for the care of	
orphan girls	2,000 “
La Crèche, for the care of infants of working women	
during the day	1,000 “

The last three societies, being especially under the care of the ladies of Tours, the subscriptions were made from funds furnished by the ladies of Dorchester, and in their name.

Aid was granted the following communes, concerning which we had special information:—

The Commune of Santhenay	2,500 francs.
“ “ “ Limeray	2,500 “
“ “ “ Auzouer	2,500 “
Five Communes near St. Epain	3,300 “
The Commune of Meslay	3,500 “

Making a total of 35,800 francs, including aid to the Refuge for Girls, but not including that given the Colony at Mettray.

On the 14th of June, a special service was held at the Chapel of St. Martin, to express gratitude for

the aid given from your fund to Tours and its neighborhood, and "to invoke the blessing of Heaven upon their benefactors in America."

Mass was celebrated by the Archbishop of Tours, now of Paris, who made a short address expressing his thanks for the gifts received. The children and officers of the Orphan Asylum, the Refuge, the Petites Sœurs des Pauvres, were present, and the service expressed in a serious and religious form the gratitude which was deeply felt.

Meanwhile, the second siege of Paris was going on, and the villages of the Banlieue, not held by the Prussians, were suffering severely; some of them from shot and shell, all from the interruption of industry. Asking Mr. Lee and Mr. Cordier to go to Orleans to examine and report what should be done there, I went myself to Versailles on the 6th of May.

Here I had the very great advantage of the advice and assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Curtis, and their family, whose long residence in France and Versailles, gave them the means of the best information. Versailles had become a place of refuge for many persons who had been driven from their houses in the neighboring towns, and being the seat of the Government and of the Assembly was,

during the second siege of Paris, the centre of information and action.

A committee had just been formed for the relief of the Banlieue, of which Madame de MacMahon, wife of the Marshal, was the head. This was a valuable organization, and I gave to it 5,000 francs. Miss Curtis was a member of the Committee and had the advantage of all the information it collected. But for the especial distribution of the money from your fund, an informal committee was organized, consisting of Mrs. and Miss Curtis, Madame de Bussière and her daughter, Madame de Bammerville. These ladies were able to act more freely than they would have done as members of a large, public committee; were themselves of great benevolence and intelligence, and were in a position to obtain assistance and information from the best people in France.

* The whole amount of money placed in the hands of this Committee was 34,497.25 francs, for which Mr. T. B. Curtis gave his receipt. Of this amount, on the 1st of September, 10,000 francs was held as a reserve, for use during the coming winter, leaving 24,497.00 francs distributed, or in the course of distribution; full details of which, so far as the expenditure has gone, have been sent to me by Miss Curtis.

The general principle on which our Committee at Versailles acted was, as far as possible, to assist such deserving cases of distress as the larger committees, owing to the more stringent rules which they were obliged to adopt, or from other causes, were unable to relieve. Our action was supplementary to that of the *Œuvre de la Banlieue*, and that of the Mayors and Councils of the distressed villages. Cases of individual suffering also, were carefully attended to, especially those not unfrequent cases, where persons of education and comfortable means were suddenly reduced to want by the events of the Prussian war, or the revolt of the Commune.

The village of Puteaux lies on the left bank of the Seine, just west of the Bois de Boulogne. Crossing the bridge at Neuilly it is a mile to the left, between that and the Fort of Mont Valerien. It is a manufacturing village of about twelve thousand people. During the Prussian siege the factories were closed, and they had scarcely opened after the peace, when they were closed again by the second siege. Fully half of the population were receiving public assistance from the town. This consisted of about eight pounds of bread per week to each person inscribed. Those who had no other means of procuring food, suffered upon this allowance, and old people could

hardly live upon it. Dr. Curtis was stationed at a military hospital in the town, and the Curé, Mons. Ducastel, was a brave and active man, worthy of entire confidence. About two thousand francs placed in his hands, were spent during May, June, and July, much of it for meat for those who were suffering for want of sufficient food, something for medicines and wine; also for beds and clothing. Mrs. Curtis writes, August 4th, "The number of persons at Puteaux assisted by the funds, amounts to one hundred and five. I have counted among them, —

32	who	are	over	60	years	of	age,
48	"	"	"	70	"	"	"
8	"	"	"	80	"	"	"
1	"	is		92	"	"	"

To help those who could do something to help themselves, an "ouvroir" or work-room for women was opened by Madame Dufaure, of which one half the expenses was paid from the Boston Fund, amounting to 3,000 francs for three months.

Neuilly, lying only a mile and a half from the Arc de l'Etoile, was disputed ground between the Government and the Commune. Each had its batteries facing the other in the streets of the town at about three hundred yards distance, firing shells point blank. The houses suffered severely, and the

mass of the population was obliged to take refuge elsewhere. Those who remained lived in the cellars, and although the soldiers supplied them largely with food, there was great suffering. Through the mayor, Mons. de Morgny, about 2,300 francs were distributed during May and June, for the relief of these poor people.

A thousand francs given the Mayor of Courbevoie was spent, half for sheeting, making ninety-one sheets, and half for eighty-two pair of shoes. A similar sum was spent by the Abbé Des Jardins at Courbevoie, for the relief of many poor. The Mayor of Clamart distributed five hundred francs among nineteen poor people. To Madame de MacMahon, for an *ouvroir* at Issy, one thousand francs were given. To the same for an *ouvroir* at Vanves, five hundred francs. For an *ouvroir* at Nanterre, five hundred francs. To Madame P., wife of the Protestant clergyman at Versailles, one thousand francs, for distribution among poor gentle-folk. Two hundred francs were given to the Curé of Bazeilles, the village in the northeast, which was so celebrated during the early part of the Prussian war, where four hundred and thirty houses had been destroyed. The money given to the Curé was to be spent for bread and meat for the children of the village, two hundred

and twenty of whom were fed daily at the infant schools, thus aiding the family and leaving the mothers more free to work.

Among the cases of individuals relieved, was that of Madame S., who before the war lived comfortably at Sevres. Madame S. was a widow with one daughter. Her property had consisted of a house and garden, which she let for 7,800 francs, reserving one floor of the house for her own use. There was a mortgage upon the property, the interest on which required 3,676 francs, leaving 4,124 francs for Madame S. and her daughter, who were without any male relative to assist them with either advice or support. The house was burned by the Prussians on the 7th of November, and the two ladies utterly without means, went to Versailles, "where they were miserably lodged in a garret by the charity of a benevolent tradesman, whose other rooms were already filled with refugees. They had liberty to cook at the family stove, but it being observed that they made no use of this privilege, it was found that they lived on dry bread and water." The daughter, an amateur painter on porcelain, was provided with painting materials and thus enabled to execute orders. Immediate relief was given by money and by clothing, sent by the Boston Sewing Circle.

A subscription paper was started by the agent of the "Comité de Boston," at Versailles, to raise 3,300 francs to repair the roof of the house, and prevent further damage from the weather. On the 1st of September, 2,700 francs had been raised, of which three hundred came from this fund, and one hundred from money sent through Rev. Phillips Brooks. The Credit Foncier which holds the mortgage upon the house, remits interest for five years, and some money for repairs may be expected from the Government, though after long delay.

Another case was that of Madame R., who lived in her own house at Garenne, just beyond Courbevoie. Her family consisted of her son, a professor and teacher of mathematics and literature, and two daughters, one of them a widow. Having been ordered by the authorities of the town to leave their house during the first siege, they went to Paris. During their absence the house was sacked. The library, instruments, chemical apparatus, furniture, linen and clothes were destroyed. Two pupils who had been with Mons. R. left him, and were unable to pay their expenses for the previous winter. The family being well known and respected, Miss Curtis arranged that the three ladies should take charge of a house for the reception and education of destitute children. A

small house was hired at seventy-five francs a quarter, the engagement not extending beyond April, 1872, though the establishment aims at becoming permanent and self-supporting, by supplying shops with ready-made clothing. All the bedding and sheets were bought at reduced prices from ambulance stores which had never been used (iron bedsteads at seven francs — sheets three francs a pair). The furniture was much of it second-hand. The children were provided with clothing sent out by the Boston Sewing Circle, and the house received preserved roast beef from the cargo of the Worcester. In this manner a few little girls find a happy home, with good food, cleanliness, and education. No orphans have been placed at this school, because after the month of April, it may be necessary to send the children back to their families.

In order to guarantee the R. family from loss by this experiment, all the furniture of the house will be their property after April next. Children are received at the "Maison Americaine," at thirty francs a month for the first six months, then at twenty-five francs, and girls of fifteen are received at twenty-five francs immediately. One miserable child was placed there by the town authorities of Colombes (of which Garenne is a suburb), at fifteen francs.

The "Maison Americaine" was founded with the funds first sent out from Boston, but the expenses are now, September 1st, transferred to the Fund from the Ladies Fair. It will probably again receive aid from the sum reserved for the winter.

In the account rendered to September 1st, aid given to the R. family amounts to three hundred and twenty-five francs, and to the school one hundred and eventy-five francs.

In the same village of Garenne-Colombes, was Mons. H. a trellis maker. His case is best described in his own words. He writes, "I am married. We have five children of whom the eldest, a boy, begins to work, for he is fourteen years old. The next is a girl ten years old, who can do little more than help take care of the three little boys. During the siege, while we took refuge in Paris, the National Guards destroyed my little dwelling, and broke or carried off all our furniture and clothing, except what we had with us. We are reduced to the greatest want, and have but a miserable hut to shelter us against the weather, while our five children are obliged to sleep together in a stable offered by a kind neighbor for their use. We cannot earn our bread, for we have no money to buy materials to fill the orders which we might receive. Still less can we

rebuild our house or replace the furniture we have lost."

Miss Curtis found this statement to be perfectly true, and "saw the father and son working at their trade, the children grouped around the shed, their only home, out in the open field, and the girl cooking at a stove out-of-doors. This girl is now at the Maison Americaine. Gave shirts from the Boston Sewing Circle and fifty francs. Shall give more as needed."

Mons. L., at Houilles, near Argenteuil, writes to the Count de Melun, treasurer of the Œuvre de la Banlieue. "I own a little land, and am 'marchand des quatre saisons' (raising and selling vegetables and fruit). The Prussians stole or destroyed my cooking utensils, bedding, garden tools, and provisions.

"For three months I was 'requisitioned' nearly every day, with my horse and cart, without pay or indemnity, which amounts to saying that in spite of myself, I, unhappily, worked for the king of Prussia. From the privations we suffered, my poor wife had a long attack of illness. She is still very feeble, and is nearly sixty years of age. For myself, I am long past that age, being in my seventieth year.

"We have not a sous to live on, and still less can

we go on with our trade which is our support. But if we had the third part of what we have lost we could (God helping) recover ourselves. For labor is both life and honor to man." "Excellent people. Gave one hundred francs."

At Neuilly, was D., a carpenter, with wife and two children; "an honest fellow ruined by the civil war. The insurgents stole all his tools." One hundred francs bought the necessary tools, and this family was placed beyond want.

At Montretout, F., a blacksmith and locksmith, had lost his whole stock and all his tools. Two hundred francs paid half the cost of repairing bellows and forge, buying stock and tools and starting him again. For the other half he got credit.

At Neuilly a poor widow lost her only son, killed by the insurgents. With her two married daughters and their three children, she fled to Puteaux. The husbands had joined one of the armies. On the 22d of May, when the fighting was almost over, the two young mothers, while washing by the river-side, were both killed at once by the same shell. The grandmother and children were left destitute. The family was visited, and the necessary relief given.

These cases, of which the number might be largely increased, will serve to give some idea of the manner

in which the money has been spent by the ladies forming the "Comité de Boston," at Versailles.

Garches is a village of 1,200 inhabitants, lying half a mile northeast of St. Cloud. In the latter part of September, 1870, as the Prussian army was investing Paris, a party of Uhlans entered the village. The mayor went to meet them. While he was talking with the officer in command, a volley from the village was fired at them. No one was hurt, and the Uhlans rode away. Early in October, the Prussian forces took possession of the village, ordering off all the inhabitants with only such property as they could carry in their hands. The village was then occupied by the troops till the early part of December, when they left it; but in revenge for the shots fired in September, every house was smeared with petroleum and burned to the ground. The people were generally small market gardeners, owning their house and land, sometimes mortgaged, but owning nothing else.

They were reduced from a condition of industrious independence to absolute want. There were hardly any houses of rich people in the village. The inhabitants found shelter in stables, but they had no means of recovering their loss. Their pear trees and vines were cut down, the garden walls levelled, and nothing was left where the house had been, except a hole full

of rubbish, once a cellar. They were, nevertheless, busy and courageous. They had cleared away the ruins, and were rebuilding the garden walls when house building was beyond their ability.

* It was suggested that if a loan of say 400,000 francs, at four per cent, could be negotiated, to be lent on mortgage for the rebuilding of the houses, the interest for three years would be paid by the Boston funds. The Baron de Bussière, a gentleman of the highest character and the most active benevolence, had become especially interested in the matter, and undertook to find out whether such an arrangement could be made. Paris was at this time still in the hands of the Commune, and two or three weeks passed before the necessary information from the bankers and loan societies could be obtained. Money was found to be worth six per cent. Some legislation would be required to define the limits between a mortgage existing upon a house before the destruction, and one created for its rebuilding. A meeting of the deputies of the department was called by Monsieur de Bussière. Another meeting was held, of the inhabitants of the village. At one time there seemed a probability that the money required would be furnished by a rich Frenchman at a low rate of interest. When I left France nothing had been set-

tled. A committee of twenty-eight ladies and gentlemen, for the aid of Garches, had been formed, of which Mons. de Bussière and Mr. Jamieson, a partner of the house of Hottinguer & Co., were members.

A credit for 50,000 francs was left with Monsieur de Bussière, to be used in aid of Garches, in the manner which he might think best, but at his discretion to be applied to other sufferers by the war, should it be found impracticable to aid especially the people of Garches.

It was in this town that some 1,200 francs, the proceeds of a theatrical performance in Boston, sent out to Mr. Brooks by Mrs. James Lodge, were distributed through the kindness of Mrs. Curtis and Madame de Bussière.

On the 13th of May, 6,000 francs were placed in the hands of the mayor of Versailles, to relieve cases of distress for the payment of rent, which were of frequent occurrence. This money has been administered by a Commission of ten members of the City Government. A report received up to July 31, shows that it is used with great care and only after the closest investigation of the merits of each case. At that date seventy-nine families had been relieved from debts amounting to 12,000 francs, by an expenditure of 3,447 francs, the balance being remitted by

the landlords. A complete account will be rendered by the commission when the fund is exhausted.

Four thousand francs were given the Sisters of Charity (of the Sacré Cœur) at St. Cloud, their house and property there having been destroyed by the Prussians. These sisters who devoted their lives to nursing the sick and wounded, and to the care of young children, now needed aid themselves.

Six thousand francs were sent Madame Thiers for a society in aid of soldiers who had suffered amputation, the money to be spent partly for artificial limbs and partly in small annuities.

Ten thousand francs were given Monsieur de Bammerville for the town of Ablis and the department of Sarthe. He had the valuable assistance of Monsieur Labadie, director of the Ambulance Gironde. Between 3,000 and 4,000 francs would be used at Ablis for the purchase of beds and bedding, of which there was great need.

At Ablis a detachment of Prussians had been surprised and captured by a corps of Franc-Tireurs. In revenge (although no inhabitant of the town had taken part directly or indirectly in this act of war), a Prussian general returned with a considerable force, gave two hours of pillage to the soldiers, who killed several of the town's people, seized the notables as

hostages, and then set fire to the principal quarters of the town, first covering them with petroleum. It was forbidden under pain of death, to extinguish the fire, and the owners were obliged to witness the destruction of their houses. Half the town was burnt with all the furniture, property, and stores which the Prussians had not already appropriated. The Hotel de Ville even, which had been converted into a hospital was not spared. [*See report of Mons. de Bussière, p. 27.*]

Ten thousand francs were placed in the hands of Mr. W. H. Waddington, deputy from Aisne, for relief of distress in his district. Mr. Waddington writes, "The object to which I should wish to devote the money, is to enable poor families, who were robbed by the Prussians of their only cow, to buy a new cow; or in cases where cottages were burnt down, to enable the owners to begin building them again. I should not wish to fritter the money away, but to distribute it in portions of one hundred, two hundred, or even three hundred francs, so as to confer a lasting benefit on the receivers of your benefaction."

For the details of the expenditure of 50,000 francs in the city of Orleans and neighboring country, I beg to refer to Mr. Lee's interesting report *

* See Appendix No. 1.

19,500 francs were given to various charitable societies at Orleans; 22,500 francs to ten communes and towns; 5,000 to Vendome, and 3,000 to two societies at Tours.

Chateaudun, a flourishing town of 7,000 inhabitants, lying northwest of Orleans, was defended by Gardes Mobiles and Franc-Tireurs, against an attack of the Prussians, in the autumn of 1870. The Prussians are said to have suffered heavy loss. They drove out the French troops and burnt about four hundred houses, being a considerable portion of the town. Fifteen thousand francs were sent there. The distribution was made in sums varying from one hundred to four hundred and fifty francs, after very careful investigation by Count Galembert, Mr. Lee, and a lady of Chateaudun. The money was lodged at a banker's, and paid directly into the hands of the recipients, whose receipts we have. Mr. Lee says, August 8th, "From all sides I hear that the money has been well placed, and caused much happiness and relief." Of twenty-eight persons relieved, seven were seventy years of age and upwards; five were sixty and upwards; seven were widows.

In Paris, 5,000 francs were placed in the hands of Rev. Mr. Coquerel, who has sent a detailed account of its distribution.

Two thousand francs were placed with Rev. Theodore Monod, and fifteen hundred with Dr. Thierry Mieg, of which the accounts have not yet come in.

Miss Clara Barton, so well known in connection with the Sanitary Commission during our war, had done great good at Strasburg, in furnishing work to eight hundred heads of families during the last winter. In July, she was in Paris making use of funds placed in her charge by Mr. Moran, of London. At my request she undertook the distribution of 30,000 francs in the Franche Comté and the country near Belfort, which had suffered from the operations of Garibaldi and the retreat of Bourbaki's army. Her accounts have not yet been received.*

Included in the cargo of the Worcester were about 20,000 pounds of preserved roast beef of excellent quality, packed in tin cans of convenient weight. Being of great value in proportion to its bulk, easily divided and cooked, it was perhaps the portion of the cargo best fitted for distribution in kind. It was therefore shipped from London to Havre, to the care of George H. Draper, Esq., by whom it was delivered to the following parties, who paid all charges of transportation from Havre.

* See Appendix No. 2.

To L'Œuvre de la Banlieue	10,000 lbs.
“ Baron de Bussière	6,000 “
“ Mr. Waddington	4,000 “
	<hr/>
	20,000 “

Mons. de Bussière intended to give to the poor of Gar-	
ches	2,200 lbs.
To the poor of Ablis	1,500 “
“ “ “ “ Lahoussaye (Seine and Marne)	300 “
“ “ Protestant Committee, for the relief of sufferers	
by the War	2,000 “
	<hr/>
	6,000 “

Distribution to be made by local committees and if possible during the winter.

Six boxes of clothing contributed by the ladies of the Boston Sewing Circle, were sent to Havre as soon as landed from the Worcester. Early in May, they being placed at the disposal of Madame de MacMahon, who was at the head of the Œuvre de la Banlieue, on condition that they should be conveyed free of charge to Versailles; the attempt, after trial was reluctantly abandoned. The cases finally reached Versailles about the 20th of June. The distribution of the clothing has been made by the Œuvre de la Banlieue and under the special supervision of Miss Curtis, in whose accounts, details are given.

The expressions of gratitude from the receivers of your charity, have been very warm and sincere. In many cases by word of mouth, often in writing, in

reports of committee of relief and in newspaper articles.

Monsieur St. Hilaire, private secretary of Mons. Thiers, wrote, Versailles, July 24th, 1871.

"Sir, — Mr. Wickham Hoffman, Secretary to the Embassy of the United States, informs me by a letter of the 10th inst. that you have come to France charged with distributing to the poor, provisions sent by the citizens of Boston; that these provisions have been brought to Havre at the expense of the government of the United States, and that after selling them, you have distributed the proceeds, amounting to the sum of 300,000 francs and especially among the inhabitants of the environs of Paris.

"I have brought the statement of these facts to the knowledge of the President of the Council of Ministers, chief of the executive power. He charges me with his thanks on behalf of his countrymen, to your fellow-citizens of Boston, to your government and to yourself, who have united from an impulse of sympathy with France, to bring to the victims of the war assistance so generous and so fraternal."

The Prefet of the Department of Loiret, residing at Orleans, writes, July 26th, 1871.

"Sir, In spite of the distance which separates them, America and France are united by so many bonds of

affection that you have come to sympathize with our misfortunes and relieve us in our distress. The city of Boston has taken the lead in this generous and patriotic movement and has sent you as her representative, to the inhabitants of Loiret.

"As Prefet of this Department and the natural protector of its interests, I must thank you, sir, for the succor which you have brought us. I must also express our appreciation of the care with which you* have fulfilled your mission.

"We can never forget the delicate method of distributing the many benefactions which have increased the sympathy already existing between our two nations. History will have reason to point to your inexhaustible charity as an example of a truly Christian fraternity, and as a virtue which belongs to your nation.

"The citizens of Boston have shown themselves the worthy compatriots of the illustrious man of whom it was said, '*Qui mundum scriptis docuit, virtutibus ornat.*'"

The Mayor and Curé of Tavers, write June 17, 1871. "In the name of our unhappy fellow-citizens, whose sufferings this gift (2,000 francs) gives us the means of alleviating, we beg you to receive the

* Meaning Mr. Lee.

expression of our gratitude for this signal kindness. As we have had the honor of telling you, we have at least one hundred families who suffer extreme privations, and among them, thirty who are reduced to a condition of absolute want."

The Superior of the House of the Good Shepherd, at Orleans, writes June 19, 1871: "I know not how to tell you, sir, how deeply we are touched by the charity of your city, nor to express the gratitude which we feel to her. We can only show it by thanking God for the kindness of Boston, and by praying Him to scatter His abundant blessings upon her and her inhabitants."

The Director of the Œuvre de Nazareth, at Orleans, writes: "Generous America is moved at the sight of our misfortunes; she sends abundant succor to our ravaged fields; she comes to help us heal our hurts and bind our wounds. Thanks, a thousand thanks, to the city of Boston. We shall teach our children to remember this good deed. We shall tell them that beyond the sea there lives a generous people who came to succor their distress.

"Be so good, sir, as to make that great city of Boston understand how much the children of France, how much the people of Orleans are touched by their generous gifts. It is in misfortune

that we recognize our friends, and it is especially in the midst of our disasters that North America shows itself the sister of France, and that the sons of these two great nations are happy to call themselves brothers."

Baron de Bussière, in his report, speaks of "the inexhaustible charity of America, — charity for which our country can never show itself sufficiently grateful."

The expenditure thus described may be briefly recapitulated as follows: —

To Mettray	12,500 francs.
Tours and neighborhood	38,800 "
Chateaudun	15,000 "
Orleans and neighborhood	48,500 "
Ablis and Sarthe	10,000 "
Garches	50,200 "
Versailles and neighborhood of Paris	55,300 "
Paris	9,000 "
Department of Aisne	10,000 "
Alsace	30,000 "
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	279,300 francs.

Of this amount further accounts will be received of the disposal of 119,500 francs by the following persons: —

Baron de Bussière	50,000 francs.
Mons. de Bammerville	10,000 "
Mr. Waddington	10,000 "
Miss Curtis	10,000 "

Mayor of Versailles	.	.	.	.	6,000 francs.
Dr. Thierry Mieg	.	.	.	.	1,500 “
Rev. Theo. Monod	.	.	.	.	2,000 “
Miss Clara Barton	.	.	.	.	30,000 “

119,500 francs.

The distribution of your charity has reached every part of France ravaged by the war, from the district around Tours, north of the Loire to Alsace, with the exception of the northeastern frontier, where, from Wörth to Sedan, the first battles of the war were fought. I had supposed that this district would be amply cared for on account of the great interest excited by the earlier events of the campaign, and from its neighborhood to Belgium, where large relief funds were raised. But I now believe that there is much room for charity there, and none of your funds have gone there except a small amount sent to Bazeilles, and perhaps some of the money given Mr. Waddington, who lives at Laon, Department of Aisne. The estimated balance in the hands of Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co. is £728. 16s. 7d.

I would suggest that the balance of the fund as shown by Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co.'s account to December 31st, be placed at the disposal of Baron de Bussièrre, Mr. Waddington, and Miss Curtis, suggesting to them the Province of Lorraine as an object of re-

lief, and pointing out how highly the committee value use made of funds distributed among "les pauvres honteux," as described in the letter from the wife of a Protestant clergyman near Paris; — that this is the class of cases which you would wish to reach in preference to all others, but finally leaving everything to their better judgment and information.

Contributors to the Fund living in Providence, Worcester, Dorchester, and other cities and towns of this and other New England States, are begged to take to themselves the full share of gratitude and thanks which their generosity so fully earned. It was impossible to explain to the French that their benefactors were of Massachusetts, because the word was to them unknown and unpronounceable, while New England would have been connected with Great Britain in an undesirable manner. The result was that Boston acquired a perhaps undue prominence in the written communications, but the real facts were explained as far as possible.

With great respect,

EDMUND DWIGHT,
Commissioner French Relief Fund.

BOSTON, December 16, 1871.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX I.

TOURS, July 6, 1871.

DEAR MR. DWIGHT :

In accordance with your wishes, I hereby send you a report of my work in the distribution of the £2,000 allotted by you for Orleans and the neighboring Communes, for La Bauce and the Valley of the Loire.

I have been forcibly struck with the absence in France, of that system of public charity which exists in our own country and in England. The system of *apparent* public charity here, is through the Bureaux de Bienfaisance. But this is in the first place, established by private donations. After their establishment the arm of government extends over them, not to increase their income, but to see that it is never diverted from charitable uses. The Government appoints the members of the Bureau, who, with the Mayor and the Curé of the Commune, form a board for the distribution of its income which must not be less than two hundred francs per annum. The amount of the original donation must by law be placed in government securities. Once established it remains in perpetuity, and the income can never be diverted from the purposes of charity in the Commune. But there are no public almshouses in France. There are hospitals where the sick are cared for. But the aged poor, too old to work, are the objects of individual benevolence. Institutions are founded by the charitable, supported by private

subscriptions, by annual fairs, by lotteries, and by special church services after which collections are made. You see that they rest on varying and uncertain supports.

These institutions (except Mettray), appear to be under the influence of, and interwoven with, the church; but in reality they are not so, although the church aids them with its influence. Private charity alone supports and sustains them.

If I have been surprised by the want of public, charitable institutions, I have not been less so, by the individual devotion to benevolent works in France. Their system of private charity differs entirely from our own. We give freely in money. The French, perhaps, do not give so largely in money, but in individual labor and attention, their devotion is wonderful.

Under this system of charity, all these institutions found themselves without means of support owing to losses caused by the war. What a boon to them has been the substantial offering of sympathy sent from our country to a sensitive people, more depressed in the hour of misfortune perhaps, than any other people in the world.

I began my distribution at Orleans, that venerable city, so historic, so proud, and now so suffering.

LES PETITES SŒURS DES PAUVRES.

This institution owes its origin to the modest but pious efforts of a servant whose devotion to her impoverished master solaced his declining years, and supported him with food gathered from the tables of those who had some to spare for charity.

The Sisters of this Institution, sprung from this humble origin, devote their lives to the aged who have survived their manhood and their friends; give them a home, and beg the food with which to support them in their closing years.

At Orleans they now have one hundred and twenty persons to care for and support. What work can be more disinterested and self-sacrificing? I gave them two thousand francs.

THE BON PASTEUR.

This Institution provides for forty orphans, is very poor, and struggling for support, as their receipts from their ordinary sources have been sadly reduced. I gave them two thousand francs.

THE ORPHELINAT DE NAZARETH.

This Institution receives orphans who are usually kept for four years, during which time they are instructed and taught some useful employment to prepare them to take care of themselves. When they leave the Institution they are provided with a place which gives them a home and employment. Their means of support have been derived from those orphans whose relatives or friends could pay three hundred francs per annum for them, and from charitable contributions. Both sources have largely failed them this year, and they have at this time one hundred and fifty orphans to maintain. I send you a letter full of gratitude for the donation of two thousand francs.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

Monsieur R., the President of the Imperial Court, is the President of this Society. He, with the Treasurer, brought their books, and gave me a full statement of the demands upon them, and of their income, which, as I have found always in France, is derived from three sources. First, from contributions, which had failed them this year to the extent of one half; second, from services in the churches, expressly for them, after which a

collection was made, — that had failed them to the extent of two thirds ; third, a lottery, or fair, from which they generally obtained about four thousand francs ; that source had entirely failed them, as they were not able to get it up this year. With this condition of their income they had on their list eight hundred families, making four thousand persons. I send a letter of thanks for the donation of five thousand francs.

THE PERSÉVÉRENCE AND APPRENTICES.

This Institution aids disabled workmen and apprentices, and was most warmly recommended to me as most worthy and charitable in its object, and full of need at this time. I am sure you will approve the donation of two thousand francs.

THE CITY OF ORLEANS.

At the request of the Marquis de T., I gave three thousand francs to the city of Orleans, to meet such cases of distress as were constantly coming before them, and which they could not provide for. The Marquis is the Adjoint of the Mayor of Orleans, and by his devotion to the cause of charity has become familiar with many cases of touching interest. There was a case of a poor family who had always lived in comfort, and were now reduced to utter want by the loss of everything. They had a store of all sort of articles of men's wear, underclothing, etc., and it was so tempting to the German soldiers, when they entered Orleans, that they did not leave a pair of gloves in the shop. The family is left utterly destitute. Another poor family of nine he found in the suburbs of Orleans, without an article of furniture, only a little straw to lie upon. The children begged their food from day to day. That man had owned cattle and lived upon the products of his farm ; but

the Germans had taken all, and he came with his wife and little ones to Orleans in despair, to seek for bread and to try and do something. For cases similar to these they required some money, and I gave it.

THE TWO LITTLE GIRLS.

This was another touching case to which my attention was called. These two little girls, whose father was entirely ruined by the war, had just lost their mother. The father, struggling for bread, was making only a franc a day to support these two little children of seven and ten years, and himself. See how hopeless his effort. Moved by their pitiable condition the Marquis de S. determined to make the effort to raise the means to place them in the Convent Des Dames de la Sagesse, where they would be educated and supported until they were eighteen years old, and taught some useful employment by means of which they would be able to support themselves. The Institution will have a maternal care over them, and in the struggles of life, if they were ill or suffering, they would find there a home and friends. It required a small wardrobe and a thousand francs. Their little wardrobe had been secured, and five hundred francs had been raised, but the other five hundred francs were needed to complete the benevolent work. I told my friend to look no further;—the Boston Committee would make up what he wanted, and gave him the five hundred francs. I was taken to see the little things in their new home, and he told them I was the representative of the good people of Boston, who had so kindly befriended them. There is no one of the objects of charity I have had the good fortune to be associated with, which gives me more pleasure to think of than this, and I am sure no one of the subscribers to this fund can feel other than a thrill of pleasure when they think their charity has placed these two little girls beyond the reach of want and misery.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION — VISITATION — NOTRE DAME
DE CHARITÉ.

These are the institutions for which I made the personal appeal to you, and I thank you for the aid you have given them. As I wrote you, I have known them through my connection with the English National Society for aid to the sick and wounded in war. I was familiar with the work done by these self-sacrificing Sisters of Mercy. They are now brought to temporary want, by the derangement of their usual means of support, and by having used up their reserved funds in the work of providing for, and taking care of, the sick and wounded. They are now the objects of charity themselves. As I told you, they had won my respect and esteem by their devotion to the sick, and they have my sympathy and pity in their hour of trial and suffering. The Notre Dame de Charité has received and nursed one thousand sick and wounded. The sisters were compelled to do even the washing for their patients, while they also aided in that way the Ambulance St. Euverte. From doing this work many of them had contracted typhus and varioloid, and had died in consequence. Both of the other institutions had done generous and noble work also.

LAILLY.

From Orleans our next relief was carried to this Commune of 2,226 inhabitants where the passions engendered by the war were sadly evident. Here we saw the remains of eighteen houses burned, making twenty-six families homeless, and from the inhabitants I heard the sad story of the deeds committed here. A force of the Germans, reconnoitring and coming into the village, was attacked by two companies of Franc-Tireurs. The horse of the German commander was killed, and fell with him. Others being wounded, the force

retreated, leaving their commander who was supposed to have been killed. But he, disengaging himself and rising to his feet, was fallen upon by the infuriated inhabitants, who attempted to kill him. In his struggles with them he was badly wounded. At the moment the Duke de L., whose château is near, coming up, saved him from their fury, and took him to his château, had his wounds dressed, and him kindly cared for. The wounded German proved to be the Count d' A., a nobleman and officer of distinction.

The Germans, learning the maltreatment of the Count, and with the view of striking terror among the inhabitants and punishing them for their conduct, came down upon the village with a force of three thousand men to burn it.

The inhabitants, terrified, hid themselves in their houses. The soldiers set the village on fire, and in the heat of excited passions, shot the unfortunate people as they fled from their burning homes. In that way seven of the inhabitants were killed, some of them in their houses, where their bodies were burned. I could not believe the statement, but was shown the houses in which the bodies were burned, and the places in the street where the others lay, when shot, as they fled. I then did not believe it, until I had heard it in a manner not to be doubted. The Curé who had been there thirty-four years confirmed the statement, and took us to the other end of the village to show us the ruins of the Château of the Countess de L., a cousin of the Duke, which had also been burned, and which he regretted extremely, as she was not rich but was very charitable. Notwithstanding her own losses she had given him nearly one thousand francs to help the poor of the village through the winter. I gave them two thousand francs, which is applied to aid in rebuilding.

DRY.

This is a small Commune near to Lailly, and came in for a part of the harsh treatment of it, although fortunately it has not been burned. Returning from Lailly we dined with Monsieur R —, at his father's residence. They told us that one of the Uhlans had ridden his horse into their very beautiful drawing room, to the great terror of the ladies. You will note one fact, — that wherever the Franc-Tireurs appeared, the Germans were very severe upon the people.

TAVERS.

This Commune is on the north bank of the Loire, in La Beauce, quite near to Beaugency. It suffered greatly from pillage. It is one of the vine-growing Communes, and the poor inhabitants are now almost in despair, as the frost of the 18th of May has destroyed the fruit on their vines. I could not but regard them with pity. You will see that I gave them two thousand francs.

GRAVANT.

This was a very prosperous Commune, but has met with very severe losses. Several of its little villages were the scenes of desperate battles. It was here that I was enabled to account for the great loss of furniture through this region. You know that La Beauce is a level, fertile plain, like our prairies. The inhabitants live in villages, but here and there there are large farms, the buildings forming a hollow square. Now these villages were fiercely contended for, and the furniture was used for breastworks in the streets, and burned by the troops when compelled to leave them. The large farms were like forts on the plain, and were sure to be burned before the struggle for them was over. I found from the Mayor and Curé that nothing would give more relief at this time than some cows, as all had been taken, and many

poor families lived upon the product of a cow, which if they did not own, they had the use of, the calf going to the owner. I perceived that this custom would enable me to do a permanent good to the Commune while it would bring immediate relief to several families. I found that this Commune had no Bureau de Bienfaisance, — no charitable fund for the poor. So I told the Mayor and Curé that Boston would found a Bienfaisance for the Commune. That I would place two thousand francs in their hands, to purchase cows immediately, to be placed, according to the custom of the Commune, among the poor families, the calves to be sold and proceeds invested in cows until there were enough to supply all the poor families. Then the proceeds arising from the sale of the calves were to found the Bienfaisance, and as soon as the Bureau was established, the cows were to become their property. Thus will this fund grow, and become a permanent aid to the Commune, at the same time give relief to the poor families in its growth.

MESSAS.

This Commune, adjoining Cravant, had suffered very much in the same way but not to the same extent. They were in as great want of cows as their neighbors. The Mayor and Curé told me that nothing would give more relief now, than what I had done for Cravant. As they had a Bureau de Bienfaisance, I gave two thousand francs to buy cows to be the property of the Bienfaisance of this Commune.

BAULE.

This Commune is on the north bank of the Loire, and like Tavers is a vine-growing Commune. The inhabitants I found extremely depressed, as the frost of the 18th of May had killed the fruit on their vines. One of the first results was, that a large number of children were taken from school,

their parents being no longer able to pay for them, although the cost of schooling was very light. I said to the Mayor and Curé, Why does not the Commune open the school free to the children of these poor people? His reply astonished me. He said, The number which we have a right to educate free is full : viz. twenty boys and fifteen girls. I said, Who prevents your educating them? He replied, The Government did not allow more than thirty-five in the Commune to be educated free, and the list was made by the Government. He appreciated the importance of keeping the children at school, and he told me he had called a meeting of the Municipality, to try and allow the children to continue free of cost. But he felt that, in the present condition of things, nothing would be done.

I inquired the number of children who had been taken away from school ; he replied, Fifty-seven ; and he thought two or three more would be compelled to leave. I asked what amount would pay for the schooling of sixty children for a year. The Curé calculated the amount, and it was a little under one thousand francs. So I told him the Boston Committee would give the money to pay for the fifty-seven, and the three who he thought would have to leave for a year ; and I gave him, with the Curé, one thousand francs for the purpose. The Mayor particularly showed great appreciation of the service rendered, and told me that in no way could a greater charity have been bestowed upon the Commune, and that he would the next day have them all back at school. I gave them also one thousand francs to aid the poor families.

MEUNG.

This has been a suffering town and Commune, with very heavy losses and a very long occupation ; as I recommended to you, I gave the sum of five thousand francs for their relief,

placed in the hands of the Mayor, who, I am sure, will apply it in the best manner to relieve the wants and suffering of the Commune.

BEAUGENCY AND BLOIS.

To each of these towns I have sent twenty-five hundred francs. Being placed in the hands of very intelligent Mayors, I feel that the money will be well applied.

VENDOME.

This town and Commune being in the track of the armies between Orleans and Le Mans suffered very much, although, fortunately, not from fire. Mr. M., the benevolent and active mayor, informed me that eight hundred of the inhabitants were requiring aid on account of losses by the war. I have sent him five thousand francs for the City and Commune, which, from his known character of benevolence, will, I am sure, be used to aid and relieve the most necessitous.

This amount completes the distribution of the £2,000 especially placed in my hands, and I hope it will be satisfactory to you, and the generous subscribers whom you represent. You can say to them from one who has lived among these people for nearly three years, and in the midst of the scene during the war, — and has known all your distributions in this region, that I am sure more suffering could not have been relieved with the means, than has been done by you. That in looking back upon the work done in this region, I do not see, with the experience gained in distributing it, how it could have been improved. And I am further sure, had it not been for the timely aid contributed to some of these valuable institutions, that they must have been broken up.

We will now turn attention to Châteaudun. I have seen Count G. and we have taken steps to get the most reliable

information, and hope soon to be able to use the fifteen thousand francs in a manner to insure the greatest relief.

I am, my dear sir,

Most truly yours,

STEPHEN S. LEE.

EDMUND DWIGHT, Esq.

APPENDIX II.

Extract of a letter from Miss Clara Barton.

BELFORT, Oct. 28, 1871.

My efforts have been directed to three classes of sufferers, with two of which I have nearly finished, and the third I am this moment among. These were the families of the prisoners of Versailles and the hulks. The families of Alsace and Lorraine who, refusing to become German, are passing over the lines into France by hundreds, even thousands. And thirdly, the region about Belfort.

The first named of these, the families of the prisoners, are no longer confined to Paris but scattered now for some distance around, poor, suffering, frightened and trebly desolate. First, they have often lost the family support in the person of the prisoner. Next, they wait in suspense worse than actual death, for the result of the impending trial, fearing often to reveal to those about them who they are, and why so destitute. And lastly, poor as they are, they know that the government allows but half a franc per day for the support of each prisoner and provides nothing else, not even a bed; and whatever more he has (and many are very ill) must be provided by friends from outside. You will see how the hungry mouths and wretched homes would be robbed by pity and anxiety to supply such needs. I have made it a portion of my care to find and supply some of these families. It could

only be some, for there cannot be less than twenty thousand of them. There are forty thousand prisoners.

A still more wretched class, if possible, are the outcoming Alsacians. The time has arrived for each to decide whether to be French or German, and, if the latter, to take the oath of allegiance to Germany. In their ignorance and infatuation they still believe France to be the greatest nation of the earth; and in spite of her recent reverses, watch with unflinching faith to see her, at no distant day, rise in all her old-time power and advance to take back her lost possessions. And to them the thought is death that, in that proud day, they or their sons should wear the Prussian helmet and point their guns against the eagles of France. Imprudent expressions touching these matters bring them into unpleasant relations with the German soldiers, who do not hesitate to mention unpalatable facts. This last feather is too much, and finding the burden too heavy to be borne, the incensed father, or the widowed mother, gathers up the family of growing children, and, turning their backs upon the blackened walls and trampled fields of the old home, makes for the nearest point of the French lines, and comes out defiant, but with never a penny nor a morsel.

The French are glad to receive them; feel complimented by their loyalty, but are burthened and embarrassed by them. Societies for their relief are formed at many points, but it is only the merest trifle they can do for them, excepting to aid in finding employment. This often takes a long time, and the interim of waiting is something fearful. I found them largely at Lyons, which is one of the points they make on their way to the south of France or to Algiers. At Paris, too, every train brings them, especially the night trains. I have put in practice a lesson which I learned in Germany, fourteen months ago, when France drove all her German families over the lines, viz.: to meet and provide

for them at the trains. No one can suppose that leaving Alsace and Lorraine, and coming into France, is not the most unwise and deplorable step these poor people could take; that they would not be a hundred-fold better off to remain. But I did not understand that your mission was to the wise, but to the unhappy, and I have taken the liberty of giving them something.

But, meanwhile, I have not forgotten Belfort, nor the fact that this was to be the great point when the right time should come. I had a conference with the authorities there, and asked them to tell me plainly what their people most needed. They replied, "Small sums of money to begin the winter with," and gave this reason: There is just now commencing a money panic in France. The large payments she must make to Germany in gold and silver make these commodities exceedingly scarce, and all who have a little, bury it in their pockets and bureaus, and hold it against the time when there will be no more, and paper worth little or nothing. The smallest note is twenty francs, a sum beyond the reach of a poor family; and thus there is nothing for them in money. This state of things, they assured me, would grow worse and worse; and as France is only at her second payment, I believe, there was no room to doubt the correctness of their judgment. I asked how they would have it; in one sum to give to the people themselves, or should I give it? Apologizing for the labor they were suggesting to me, they begged that I would do it if I could; not that they were too indolent to do the work (for they are splendid men and have the welfare of their people at heart), but they explained that living among, and exercising jurisdiction over, these people, who looked to them for impossible things, it was embarrassing to them to make distributions among them personally. The people were ignorant, and all had suffered so much that each one believed his or her case to be the worst in the

world ; and they would be much better satisfied with something from a stranger, which they would receive as a gift, than with ten times the sum from the municipal authorities to whom they looked for " indemnity."

I am then, at this writing, living at the mayor's house, and receiving from fifty to a hundred families a day, hearing their stories and giving to them the proportion which seems best suited to their condition. They are largely Catholic, and exceedingly ignorant ; only a small, very small portion even pretending to anything beyond a cross for the name.

I shall go from point to point, seeing and aiding personally all I can, or until I am too tired to go farther ; and after this, if something remains unfinished, find the proper persons to do what I have not done.

APPENDIX III.

Extract from a letter written by the wife of a Protestant clergyman near Paris.

I ought long ago to have thanked you, and begged you to thank the Boston committee, for the generous sum which you were good enough to entrust to me last summer; but I was unwilling to do so until the money you sent me had been entirely distributed. You have allowed me to give aid to those victims of the war whom we called the bashful poor (*les pauvres honteux*) to those who, in comfort yesterday, are without shelter and without food to-day, and who have certainly suffered more than the thousands of paupers who, speculating in public charities, have received help from every side, and who never hesitate to beg whenever the occasion offers.

Being bound by a formal promise to those whom I have, as it were, forced to accept aid, I cannot give you the names, and it is difficult for me to give you as accurate details as I should wish, both for my personal discharge and for the interest of the committee. Let me cite only two or three cases. While at Versailles I spoke to you of the daughter of a general, wife of a captain, reduced to a condition of the most profound, but most respectable, poverty. Accustomed to good society, she has been obliged to hide herself from it, and to spend her days and nights laboring to provide

food for her children hitherto delicately reared. I have helped her, and helped her effectively, and with tears in her eyes has she thanked her benefactors in Boston. I have also had the happiness to send back to her children a mother broken down by privation and anxiety, and rendered temporarily insane by the sudden death of her husband.

Going to Strasburg in September I tried to do some good in that poor Alsace with the money that remained. What sufferings, what sorrows! above all, how many sick. With nourishing food, medicine and wine, I strove to restore to health persons who, having lived in abundance, find themselves deprived of the very necessities of life. Thus I have had the good fortune to encourage many a despondent heart, and to give strength to many a feeble sufferer.

APPENDIX IV.

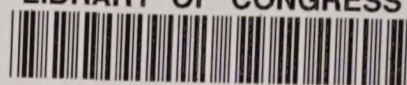
The Treasurer of the French Relief Fund reports : —

Received from Subscriptions,		\$85,391 76
		<hr/>
Feb. 17, Paid on acct. of Cargo,	\$20,000 00	
“ 20, “ “	20,000 00	
“ 23, “ “	20,000 00	
“ 25, “ “	5,000 00	
Mar. 1, “ “	1,267 95	66,267 95
		<hr/>
“ 3, Remitted Edmund Dwight,	8,720 00	
“ 21, “ “	4,951 74	
“ 25, “ “	1,202 00	
“ 27, “ “	2,767 89	17,641 63
“ 27, Advertising bills,		444 50
“ 27, Cable messages,		89 38
Dec. 16, Balance in Bank,		948 30
		<hr/>
		\$85,391 76

Boston, Dec. 16th, 1871.

P. T. JACKSON, *Treasurer.*

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